

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

### An Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata* of unknown origin

During research for a review of the genus *Pachyptila* in Kenya (Fanshawe *et al* 1991), a previously undescribed prion skull was discovered in the bird collection of the Department of Ornithology in the National Museums of Kenya. Its origins are unknown, but measurements proved that it is from an Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata* (culmen length 28.0 mm; width 12.3 mm) found at some time during 1984, and attention is drawn to it here as additional reference material.

### Reference

FANSHAWE, J.H., PRINCE, P.A. & IRWIN, M. 1991. Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica*, Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata* and Thin-billed Prion *Prion belcheri*: three species new to East Africa. *Scopus* 15: 102-108.

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### Changes in the populations of piscivorous birds at Lake Naivasha, Kenya between 1987 and 1989

Lake Naivasha is renowned for its sudden and rapid changes of water level (Åse 1987). In 1987, the water level was dropping and aquatic macrophyte growth was high but macrophytes were stranded as the water levels dropped. In 1988 the water level began to rise again and regrowth of papyrus in the lake shallows occurred (much of the papyrus was cleared during 1986-87) along with an increase in aquatic macrophytes. By 1989 the aquatic macrophyte beds were very dense, but a drop in water level meant there was a decrease in shallow margins since much of the lake edge consisted of stranded papyrus, as was the case on the east of the lake only in 1987. Visibility (measured by Secchi disc) outside the macrophyte band was decreasing between 1984 and 1987 and reached a low in 1988, before increasing in 1989 (D.M. Harper, pers. comm.).

Two surveys of the numbers of piscivorous birds were undertaken in July and August 1987 and repeated in July and August 1989. The surveys indicated that there had been a severe drop in numbers of cormorants, pelicans and herons (Table 1).